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SIXTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE FIFTH CONFERENCE

Report of Germany

Paper submitted by Germany**

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1. The Gazetteer, Federal Republic of Germany (Geographisches Namenbuch Bundesrepublik Deutschland) had its first edition in 1981. Based on a map scale at 1:500,000, it includes the geographical names of the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany as it existed before 3 October 1990 ("West Germany"). A data file of the Gazetteer has been set up and is continually updated. As a result of the German unification it has become a necessity to consider the five new Länder (federal states) Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Sachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt, Thüringen and the eastern part of Berlin. A supplementary volume is being prepared, scheduled for publication in 1993. A corresponding data file is being set up simultaneously.

2. As soon as the Supplementary Volume: East to the Gazetteer is available, the data file will allow for the derivation of a concise gazetteer through selection. The concise gazetteer will include selected cities (more than 10,000 inhabitants), particularly significant places, rivers, landscapes etc.

3. A new edition of "Toponymic guidelines for map and other editors - Federal Republic of Germany" has been submitted to the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names. It replaces the first edition, published in 1981 which was submitted to the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names at its ninth session. The necessity of a new edition arose from the German unification.

4. The Digital Antarctic Names Data Base of German place-names in the Antarctic is maintained and supplemented so as to include the names assigned within the framework of research done by the German-speaking nations in Antarctica. The Federal Republic of Germany submitted a paper on the set-up of this geographical names database to the Fifth Conference (E/CONF.79/INF/25).

5. In the wake of the German unification, it has also become necessary to prepare a new map of Germany at 1:1 million scale. The new map will be based on the following two maps:

> Bundesrepublik Deutschland 1:1,000,000, Landschaften - Namen und Abgrenzungen; vorläufige Ausgabe (Federal Republic of Germany, 1:1,000,000: landscapes, names and borderlines; preliminary edition) (Frankfurt am Main, 1985);
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> Regionale geographische Namen der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik, 1:800,000 (Regional geographical names in the German Democratic Republic, 1:800,000 scale) (Berlin, 1982).

These activities were dealt with at the fifteenth session of the Group of Experts in working paper No. 47. The new map is scheduled for publication in 1993.

6. As a further result of German unification, activities with regard to the revision of administrative and other geographical names in the Federal Republic of Germany have been initiated. Relevant information was provided in working paper No. 50 of the fifteenth session of the Group of Experts.